

HENRY HUDSON PAC MEETING

Date & Time: January 17th, 2013. Meeting started at 6:36 pm.

Location: Henry Hudson School Library.

In attendance: Parents (approximately 22), Pat M. from HOOSC and principal Mr Adams. Guest speakers, Dhaneva Panday and Elnaz Ansari were present to speak about the Point Grey-Cornwall Corridor Project. In addition, a full list of attendees is available from the PAC Chair upon request. For privacy reasons a full list is not posted on the web site.

1. A motion to approve (incomplete) minutes from December 2012 PAC meeting (with addendum to follow) by Alan P. was seconded by Jerry H. Motion passed.

>> Minutes we amended Feb 6, 2013 in the section regarding crossing guards.

2. Point Grey-Cornwall Corridor Project Presentation - guest speakers Dhaneva & Elnaz

- a. Robert introduced these two guest speakers from the Point-Grey Road-Cornwall Avenue Active Transportation Corridor Project to explain how Henry Hudson can have some input and keep up with decisions made by the City of Vancouver on this project that will highly affect the school's community and commuters. The presenters described the project's goals as being part of the City's "greenest city 2020" initiative, encouraging active transportation for all ages and abilities in creating a safer, more convenient route between Burrard and Jericho. Highlights of the project are to attempt to reduce vehicular speed and volume on Point Grey Road, make the intersection at Burrard and Cornwall more direct and safer for pedestrians and gather information to help create a safer walking and cycling route for people. They stated that the project is in its early stages of gathering information by doing cyclist counts, looking at collision and pedestrian data and beginning to gather feedback from residents and users. In fact, a few open houses are scheduled and it was consensus that it would be in the school's best interest to advertise them to parents so that our school concerns be heard. Chantal will attach the open house dates to the email reminders and Rob will see about getting advertisements to each student via the backpacks.

- b. There were some questions from parents:

Q: How about monitoring speed on Cornwall outside of Hudson? There have been speed monitoring machines on Point Grey Road outside of the wealthy homes for a long time...

A: It has been done with hand-held radar guns outside of Hudson. The speed indicating signs on Point Grey Road were put there by the Vancouver Police Department and have been left longer than previously

expected. No current plan to put up a speed indicator sign on Cornwall, outside of Hudson.

Q: I've noticed that there is photo radar at Pacific on the other side of Burrard. Is there any way to get that at this side of the bridge?

A: This will be noted but this is part of what this project hopes to address and photo radar is perhaps not the solution for the goals of this project.

Q: Has there been any analysis of the side streets and smaller arteries to these high volume intersections surrounding Hudson?

A: These smaller streets have been looked at to take into consideration what traffic is like.

Q: What is the goal of this "corridor"?

A: As explained at the City of Vancouver website (www.vancouver.ca), this project fits into Vancouver's 2020 transportation plan to increase ridership in modes of active transportation so that 2/3 of all trips along this route will be by transit, bicycle or by foot. There will be a 0% fatality rate and the route will be suitable to all ages and abilities.

- c. Robert explained to Dhaneva and Elnaz that there was a Hudson student killed at Hudson in a traffic fatality in 1997 and we want to make sure this is not going to happen again. Heavy volume of traffic in cramped quarters makes for dangerous situations facing students all around the school. He requested that the project take a good look at the streets surrounding the school between 8:30-9:10am when parents on their way to work and dropping children to school drive with "urgency". He requested (and parents present agreed) that intersections at York and Cypress and Cypress and Cornwall needed monitoring. Although the PAC had looked into hiring a traffic/crossing guard, there was none available. Discussion about safety around the school came back to requesting compliance from the Hudson community and asking the VPD and the City to penalize drivers who did not follow bylaws and laws.
- d. Mitch asked Mr Adams if he had seen the email he had sent about a Traffic Study Program with the City of Vancouver headed up by Sylvia Kirk that would help gather information about the school's traffic problems and help kids get to school safely. The guest speakers thought this would also be a great way to provide information for the Corridor Project. Mr Adams said he had seen the email and is looking into whether he wishes the school to be a part of the study.
- e. Dhaneva and Elnaz extended their contacts to Robert if further questions should arise and Robert asked them to see about a contact at the City to speak to about the safety issues surrounding Hudson school, besides the generic 3-1-1 phone number.

3. School Planning Committee - Elections

- a. Robert explained that January is always the month that SPC elections occur and described the committee, which is comprised of the principal, a PAC executive member and two non-PAC executive parents, as a group that oversees and signs off on a school plan put together by teachers and administration. Rob had not heard from any parents who wished to run for a spot on the SPC and he asked if all current members would remain standing. All but one (Monica M.) were standing for their positions, and Victoria S. (who had been shadowing the previous year) was willing to take Monica's place. By acclamation, Mitch L., Chantal M. (PAC executive member) and Victoria S. were all named to the SPC for 2013/2014.

2. Principal's Report - Mr Adams

- a. Mr Adams told the attendees that the teachers had made a decision to use the money in the PAC's technology fund to purchase Epson projectors instead of purchasing smartboards. This decision would double the number of classrooms fitted with technology as the projectors are about half the price of the smartboards. Sheila asked what would happen with the smartboard that was currently in the cupboard at the school and Mr Adams said that it would be installed as soon as possible.
- b. Mr Adams reported that 2 of Hudson's 3 French Immersion grade 7's would be leaving on their trip to Quebec City on February 12th, thanks to being able to piggyback on Douglas Park Elementary School's organizing. They were already in touch with the families they would be billeted to and were very excited.
- c. A knitting club is commencing at Hudson. This club is being organized by Andrea Batstone, Ms Meza, Ms Langlois and Mme Boyd. The students will be meeting every Wednesday at lunch to work on projects starting with making a washcloth. The long-term goal is for the students to knit scarves to give to the homeless in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, weaving in the school plan's social responsibility goal.
- d. Also on track with the school's focus on social responsibility, the school counsellor and Mme Boyd are starting a Peer Mentor/Henry Hudson Ambassador group to train and provide education for interested grade 5/6/7's who will use these skills to help improve the school's social atmosphere. In particular, there will be about 10 students chosen to learn conflict resolution language and skills to help diffuse issues among younger students. This group will also be trained to teach games to younger students. On February 6th, Gabrielle Fong will bring Sexsmith Elementary School's leadership group to teach our youth mentors and ambassadors.

- e. February 15th will be Hudson's annual *carnaval*. There will be pancakes and centres in the morning and a surprise performance for the students in the afternoon.
- f. Mr Adams mentioned that Ms Dixon and Ms Shomura's classes will be working with the local Maritime Museum, giving students a chance to meet professionals who work on the ocean. They will study how pollution is affecting the seas and will present an art project to show what they learn.
- g. Mr Adams reported that the West Area 2 community programming will be offering basic swim lessons for grades 3-7 on Tuesdays and diving for grades 4-7 on Fridays, both from 3-5:30 with bus transportation to and from the Aquatic Centre. As there is limited space available in the programs, it will be put to a lottery if more than 10 children register at Hudson.
- h. Finally, Mr Adams presented a letter from the Vancouver School District's Social Responsibility & Diversity Team, defining peer conflict, mean behaviour and bullying and the difference of these terms. This will be a standard definition for parents, school staff and administrators to work from when dealing with issues relating to students. Reference to this document will be sent home in the near future.

3. Accidental Fundraising Committee - Robert (on behalf of committee members)

- a. Robert said that a total of approximately \$8500 had been donated to the playground replacement fund, with about 20% of Hudson families contributing to the contribution appeal letter from the AFC. Gary W. has sent in a new estimate for replacement of the playground equipment to the VSB, following the many steps necessary in completing the project to the VSB's approval. Corporate donations have been solicited and the AFC are currently waiting on results of those appeals. Robert said the accounting is slow-going through the VSB, but that 1/3 of receipts had been issued and were in the mail. He said that there are some receipts for donors who gave at the centennial last year still in the office. If anyone is missing a receipt from a donation made last year at centennial to the playground replacement fund, please contact Rob at robert@quokkasystems.com.

4. Earthquake Supplies & Planning

- a. Sheila asked for an update on what was happening with the earthquake preparedness and the comfort kit project. Mr Adams explained that because the original list of items to be included in the comfort kit included items that the teachers and administration were not comfortable to distribute (ie. medication, food for specific students, etc), the comfort kit collection was yet to be determined. There was also the question of taking away teacher's time to collect the kits and ensure each child was outfitted with one. Mr Adams said that an internal committee of teachers and staff - those who will be looking after the students in an earthquake - had a meeting to decide

what was necessary and wished to keep it simple so that, even under duress, a plan could be successfully carried out. Mr Adams suggested perhaps the PAC could then decide to donate instant soup (as an example) enough to feed the school population, instead of parents adding their own food items to a comfort kit. Sheila expressed frustration at how long this project had taken to get going, volunteering to take a few next steps to get to the collection of approved kits.

Next steps to do comfort kit collection:

1. Visit shed, determine space and buckets to store kits for each division.
2. Draft a letter with list of comfort kit items to have approved by Mr Adams, stating execution of collection.
3. Determine system and timeline for comfort kit collection for each division.

6. Treasurer's Report - Emily

- a. Emily shared some up-to-date fundraising numbers with the meeting. She stated that pizza day and hot lunch had generated just under \$10,000 for the first term. Wendy estimated that, by the end of the year, we should see about \$25,000 earned from this volunteer-driven fundraiser. She attributed the increase in funds over last year of about \$7000 to an increase in uptake and the slight increase in cost. Another parent chimed in that a portion of it was attributed to Wendy's thrifty shopping!
- b. Emily said that the Winter Fair had generated \$750, the Entertainment Books had raised \$648 and Family Photo Night had made \$255. Sheila said Winter Fair had also made Hudson Out of School Care \$450, Usborne Books had sold \$421 (making \$138 of book commission for the library), the grade 7's had made \$290 for their trip and the junior achievement club (grades 6 and 7's) had made \$128 and \$25 for the Food Bank.
- c. A HUGE and formal thank you was extended to all - especially the two organizers, Sheila C. and Andrea M. - who made Winter Fair a success.

9. Choir Update - Catherine

- a. Catherine reported that the second term of choir had begun with about 44 students. The chamber choir has 15 members who had been chosen after auditions. The kids were excited already, having learned "When I'm 64" by the Beatles at the first practice.
- b. Catherine stated that Ms Armitage was working with the drama club to put together a play of the Wizard of Oz with musical numbers being done by the chamber choir. This was expected to be ready for performance by March

break. Robert mentioned that surplus income from the choir of about \$1000 was going to be helping to make this play a go.

10. French Immersion Trip – Alan P.

- a. Alan stated that he is still gathering information about what is necessary to organize and fund a grade 7 French Immersion exchange trip for next year. He reported that there are two grants for French Immersion trips from the YMCA and SEVEC (Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada), who both receive funds from Heritage Canada. These grants only cover travel expenses. However, a budget is still necessary for guest student, chaperone and teacher transportation, activities and accommodation while hosting at home.

11. Next Meeting

- a. Next PAC Meeting to be Tuesday, February 12th at 6:30 pm in the library.

12. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mitch L. was seconded by Simon at 7:58. Motion passed.